

Commission on Motor Vehicles for Hire
Wednesday, December 16, 2015
New Shoreham Town Hall, 16 Old Town Road
9:00 a.m.

Present: Commissioners Vincent McAloon, Constance LaRue, Patrick Evans, Brad Marthens, Geoffrey Lawrence

Absent: none

Also present were taxi owners Judy Clark, Fran Migliaccio and Michael Shea, *Block Island Times* representative Lars Trodson, and Town Clerk Molly Fitzpatrick. MVFH Clerk Karen Cadow Le Roy was present to take minutes.

1. Receive and act upon report from MVFH clerk on current and historical fees for a Town limousine license

MVFH Chair Mr. Marthens read aloud the schedule of current and historical fees for a Town limousine license.

2. Receive report from MVFH clerk on mainland limousine rates

The Commissioners discussed mainland limousine rates, with input from the audience. They also clarified that a limousine cannot solicit passengers or offer tours, and that the same vehicle cannot be used as both limousine and taxi.

3. Discuss and act on request to amend MVFH ordinance [§8-161(c)(1)(b)] to increase limousine passenger capacity

Motion: Mr. Marthens moved to change the hourly limousine rate from the current \$50/hour to \$100/hour, with a minimum \$100 charge, and increase the passenger capacity from 6 passengers to 12, as long as the vehicle can accommodate that level. Ms. LaRue seconded the motion.

Discussion included clarification of “12 passenger”, which means one driver and 11 passengers, and that alcohol can be served behind the window in a limousine. The wording of our current licensing is unclear on the distinction between total number of people allowed in a vehicle and driver/ number of passengers, and needs to be changed.

Ayes: 5 (Marthens, McAloon, LaRue, Evans, Lawrence)

Nays: 0

Absent: none

4. Receive draft 2016 Taxi Rate sheets

The Commissioners noted that the revised map was easier to read, the colors were good, and suggested a few revisions. They instructed the clerk to work with the Town GIS specialist on the changes and present the revised map in pdf form at the next MVFH meeting.

5. Receive and act on report from the Town Clerk on whether or not the town receives written notification of receipt of insurance or cancellation of insurance from any of the insurance companies for each and every one of the 32 taxi license holders.

Town Clerk Molly Fitzpatrick was present to read aloud a memo (attached) and answered questions from the Commissioners and audience.

6. Approval of minutes: November 18, 2015

Motion: Ms. LaRue moved to accept the minutes of November 18, 2015 as written; motion seconded by Mr. Evans.

Ayes: 5 (Marthens, McAloon, LaRue, Evans, Lawrence) **Nays:** 0 **Absent:** none

7. Correspondence

Mr. Marthens asked if Judy Clark's request for a limousine license had been forwarded to the Town Council; Ms. LeRoy answered that it had not.

Motion: Mr. Marthens moved to forward Judy Clark's request for a limousine to the Town Council for their next meeting. There was no second.

8. Public Input

There was no public input.

Motion: Mr. Marthens moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m.. Ms. LaRue seconded the motion.

Ayes: 5 (Marthens, McAloon, LaRue, Evans, Lawrence) **Nays:** 0 **Absent:** none

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Cadow Le Roy

Minutes approved: January 20, 2016

Attachment, Agenda item #5

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: MVFH COMMISSION
FROM: TOWN CLERK
SUBJECT: MVFH INSURANCE
DATE: 12/15/2015
CC:

The MVFH Commission has asked me to respond to the question: “whether or not the town receives written notification of receipt of insurance or cancellation of insurance from any of the insurance companies for each and every one of the 32 taxi license holders.”

The MVFH ordinance (below) *requires the Town Clerk* to check the insurance coverage before the license is issued. That is always done for every license every year.

The ordinance *requires MVFH licensees* to notify the Town Clerk when their insurance is changed or cancelled. We give each licensee a copy of the ordinance every year to remind them of all their responsibilities. When we receive notification of insurance changes, we file them.

If you ever have a question about a specific licensee, we can retrieve the information immediately. Although I do not audit all the files for the licensees’ compliance of the requirement, it’s my belief that we do not receive notification of cancellations from every licensee.

Sec. 8-167. - Liability insurance.

(a) The town clerk shall not issue or renew any license under this article until the applicant furnishes proof of adequate liability insurance. Each licensee is required to carry liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$250,000.00 per occurrence for motor vehicles other than charter buses which are to carry liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence. The coverage shall remain in full force and effect during the term of any license issued pursuant to this article, unless the licensee notifies the commission and the town clerk, in writing, that the license is not being utilized.

(b) Each licensee shall notify the commission and the town clerk of cancellation or change in the terms of the licensee's liability insurance coverage. Notification shall take place, in writing, within 72 hours of the receipt by the licensee of notice of such cancellation or change.